

# Annual Report 2016



## Acts of Random Kindness, Not So Random- Al Volmut, Exec. Director

**You can tell a lot about a community by the traits** of its constituents and their commitment to making their home a better place to be.

**Statistics indicate that Wisconsin has the 3rd highest** rate of volunteerism in the country at 35.3%. Over 1.5 billion registered volunteers yield 4.6 billion dollars worth of service state wide.

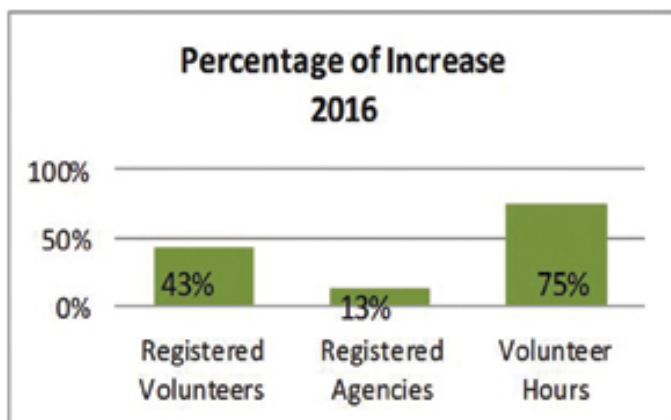
**In 2016, the Volunteer Center continued to grow** with the number of registered volunteers reaching over 5,000. Over 300 non-profit agencies utilized the Volunteer Center to recruit volunteers in support of their respective missions. Last year, over 178,000 volunteer hours were recorded in Racine County.

**The Volunteer Center continues to offer support** to our senior and youth population. The primary goal of the senior programs is to support efforts to keep the elderly safe, sustainable, and healthy in their homes as long as feasible. Senior programs supported by the Volunteer Center include Senior Home Companion, Meals on Wheels, MyRIDE, and the Skill Bank.

**Area youth are introduced to the concept of** "Service Learning" in the following ways: Free Summer Volunteer Youth Camps and in participating in National Days of Service (Martin Luther King Day, Earth Day, Make A Difference Day). The Safe Assured™ID Program is designed to provide rapid emergency response in case of missing persons. This program supports the safety and security needs of both the young and old.

**Volunteer Center is proud to be a vital conduit** between volunteers and Racine County's non-profit agencies. "Keep on giving, Racine".

**Al Volmut, Executive Director**



## RSVP – Racine County Refines its Focus Bruce Davis - RSVP Director

**The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** – Racine County is concluding its current fiscal year with over 230 volunteers contributing nearly 16,000 hours through more than fifteen agencies.

**RSVP will start a new three-year cycle on April 1, 2017**, that upon its completion in 2020, will mark a twenty-year association between RSVP and its sponsor, the Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc.

**As federal funding has become increasingly problematic** over the past five years, RSVP projects, which operate under the authority of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), are placing increasing emphasis on uniform reporting standards.

**These National Performance Measures (NPM's) are designed** to give lawmakers, when awarding funding levels, an accurate idea of the impact that RSVP projects have on the communities they serve, regardless of their geographic location.

**NPM's are set by CNCS**, as are the range of projects that they measure. All projects have outputs which measure unduplicated volunteers or volunteer hours, depending upon the activity.



## SafeAssured™ID Update Dave Voss - RSVP Outreach Coordinator

**Both children and seniors were processed this year by Safe Assured™ID.** Kenosha TRIAD used our equipment to process Kenosha seniors. We just made it to the end of year before grant money ran out.

**We worked at many events such as** the police book giveaway at Festival Hall in December, Racine Business Expo, Caledonia Historical Society, Safety Fairs and senior homes. Looking forward to next year.





## Volunteer Racine County Judie Nielsen - Volunteer Coordinator

## Volunteering is the Foundation of a Progressive Community Rebecca Beck - Youth Coordinator

**We ended 2016 with 5188 registered volunteers, and 305 agencies.** Our goals: recruit new volunteers, add new organizations or agencies in need of volunteers. Those goals were met or exceeded in 2016. The recording of volunteer hours is an ongoing challenge. Our goal is to record all donated time in Racine County, which is an enormous challenge.

**Volunteers and agencies are sometimes hesitant to register for fear of someone getting their personal data.** This is not the case. We want to assure you that our web site is very secure and only you or the Volunteer Center has access to your data.

**It is a FREE tool for you to find volunteer opportunities and record the hours you volunteered.** It is also a FREE tool for agencies to list their needs. We are looking forward to 2017 and would like to continue to increase users, both volunteer and agencies.

**To Register go to [www.volunteerracine.org](http://www.volunteerracine.org).** Scroll to bottom of the page, in the left corner you will see Register volunteer or Register Agency. Click on register. Follow the prompts. Now you can keep track and log your own volunteer hours, and search numerous volunteer opportunities. Hope to see your name entered in 2017.

### MyRIDE Senior Transportation Jenni Chap - Senior Transportation Coordinator

**What is MyRIDE?** MyRIDE is a senior transportation program in Racine County for seniors aged 55 years and over, who live in Racine County, and who are no longer able to drive to appointments. MyRIDE provides transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other destinations as needed. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 8:00am until 5:00pm.

**The MyRIDE program has been in existence for just over two years.** In 2016, we provided 4,840 rides to seniors and of those rides 3,670 were to medical appointments. Included with the 4,840 rides, MyRIDE drove over 2,510 hours and 39,262.40 rider miles. Our goal is to provide transportation for seniors to allow them to remain independent in our community, the community that they call home.

**As the need for rides increases, the need for volunteer drivers has also increased.** Some benefits of driving for MyRIDE include meeting nice people, providing a service to a senior who otherwise wouldn't be able to make it to appointments, and the feeling of satisfaction knowing that you are providing a service to a senior who is in need to get to the doctor and can't. If you are 55 years and over and drive for MyRIDE, you will receive mileage reimbursement and additional supplemental insurance. If you are interested in volunteering for the MyRIDE program, please call Jenni or Terri at 262-417-7544.

**Volunteering is the foundation of a progressive community!** We will continue to unite with our school and community leaders to recruit our youth volunteers guided by the Youth Volunteer Corps [YVC] mission and four fundamental goals.

**YVC Mission:** "We create volunteer opportunities to address community needs and to inspire youth for a lifetime commitment to service while targeting YVC four fundamental goals."

- 1. To engage youth in service projects that are challenging, rewarding and educational.**
- 2. To serve the unmet needs of the community and its residents.**
- 3. To promote among youth a greater understanding and appreciation for the diversity of their community.**
- 4. To promote a lifetime ethic of service among youth.**

**We will engage youth in volunteer services-learning projects** that address a variety of important needs within Racine County.

**Volunteer Center of Racine County's annual gift wrapping fund raiser event at the Regency Mall was a great success,** with the generous participation of 56 teens totaling 168 hours. The youth volunteers came from many of the county high schools; J.I. Case, Union Grove, Walden III, Washington Park, William Horlick High School, etc...

**Most recently, we had a pizza party** for some of our existing youth volunteers and new youth volunteers. Where the 20 plus student's from 10 different schools created 350-400 Valentine cards for Meals on Wheels in Racine County to deliver to their elderly shut ins when serving their meal.

**We are currently in the process of securing "Free Learning Summer Camps"** for this summer 2017. Thanks to a S.C. Johnson Foundation for financial support of this project.



## STAFF ROSTER

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Volunteers are the Heart of the Community



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Check out our page on

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